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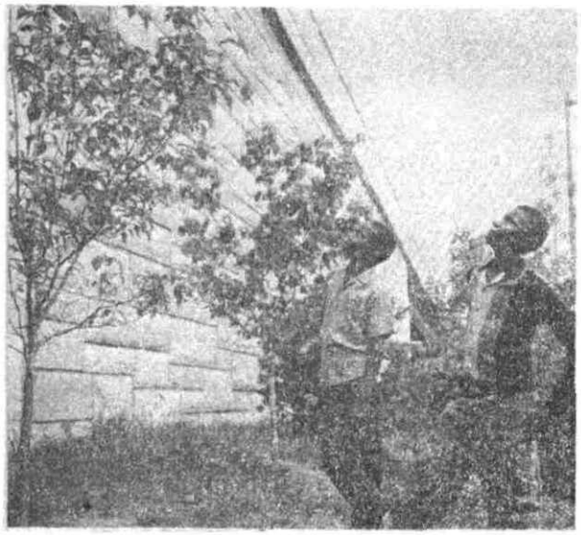
Southeast's
Berlin Wall

Barry Chicks (left) and Howard Kinney stare at massive stone wall that supports the Southeast leg of the inner loop freeway. It will, when complete, separate much of the public housing in Southeast from private housing, force relocation of 300 families and isolate much of the community from the Anacostia River. For the full story, see below.



The Capitol East Gazette

Serving Near Northeast & Near Southeast Washington

VOL. I OCTOBER 1966 Nr 4

Humanize Freeway, Marchers Demand

East of the Dome

VICTOR T. O'NEAL, 332 E St. SE, has been appointed Assistant Administrator of Children's Hospital. Mr. O'Neal was formerly Assistant Administrator at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

EVERY sixth grader in the Ninth Precinct will get a chance this year to visit police headquarters and the precinct stationhouse. Number Nine police conducted the tour program last year for sixth graders and consider the project very successful.

ONE OF the first customers at the community laundromat on Pennsylvania Ave. stuck an old quilt in a washing machine. The thing dissolved, jammed the plumbing and made some major pipe surgery necessary. Other than that, the laundromat-community center seems to be getting off to a good start. Jane Hardin is busy selling shares (at $2 a share) in the laundry located at 1125-27 Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Asked whether she foresaw the danger of any proxy fights for control of the laundry, she said that under the rules no one could control more than 3% of the shares.

THE William Penn House, 515 Capitol St., was opened September 10 to provide a service center for Quaker groups throughout the country. The center is run by the Washington Society of Friends.

Protest SE Extension

THREE HUNDRED persons marched Sept. 17 in protest against the planned extension of the SE Freeway. The march was the climax of several weeks of mounting local criticism of the road extension from 6th and Va. Ave. SE, around the east boundary of Capitol East.

The marchers began their trek at Barney Circle and followed the planned route to the point where the freeway now ends. They carried signs reading "Humanize the Freeway" and "No Berlin Wall in SE" and were accompanied by a band. Several speakers addressed the group including **Lee Rodgers**, president of the School Action Council of Capitol East, which endorsed the march; **Mrs. Ruth Whitley**, local resident; **Bob Adams** of Friendship House, and **Thomas G. Smith**, of the Capitol East Democratic Club. Most vehement in his protest was Smith, who called upon area residents to lie down in front of bulldozers when they begin work of the road. Mrs. Whitley said the road would be unsafe for children.

The organized protest began in August under the leadership of **Peter Ward**, a local community organizer; Smith; **Earl Wells**, Capitol East architect, and others. During a series of meetings, the following major complaints against the highway developed:

—That it would force the relocation of three hundred families, some of whom had previously been dislocated by the southwest urban renewal project.

—That it would create a wall between public and private housing in SE.

—That it would block off access to the Anacostia River bank, which may—in

(Please turn to page 5)

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The Gazette

The Capitol East Gazette is published monthly for the benefit of Washingtonians living in the area bordered on the west, Fla Ave. on the north, by North and South Capitol Sts. and Anacostia River on the east and south. The Gazette may be received by mail for $2 a year. Or, if you live in Washington postal zone 2 or 3, you may subscribe to The Idler Magazine (see page 5) at $3 a year and get The Gazette free. Letters to the editor, news items and advertising are welcomed.

Editor:
sam smith

Associate Editor:
Erbin Crowell

Correspondence, circulation and coffee:
Sally Crowell

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UPO Claims 'Chaos,' Drains Pool at Stuart

Local boys play in sand at Stuart Junior High School where unused portable pool stood until recently.

Little Cooperation from Boys' Club, Official Says

OVERCROWDING and lack of proper supervision led to closing of the portable pool at Stuart Junior High School, according to the United Planning Organization. The pool was one of several installed around the city last summer, but was drained shortly after being opened for use.

"There were an uncontrollable number of youths up to full grown teenagers" attempting to use the pool designed for small children, **George O'Meally** of UPO told the **Gazette.**

O'Meally said that UPO placed the pool at Stuart (4th and E NE) because of the many children in the area and the need for recreational facilities for them. He stated that UPO hod been promised the cooperation of the Police Boys' Club in maintaining discipline at the pool but that the assistance failed to materialize.

On the opening day, lifeguards found it difficult to keep order. "Chaos seemed to have overwhelmed everything," said O'Meally. "Unless there were armed guards it didn't seem practical" to keep the pool open.

As a result, the pool was shut down.

O'Meally described the situation at Stuart as "the only one of its nature" in the city during last summer's initial experiment with portable pools.

The Police Boys' Club, which has a regular program at Stuart, denied that it had promised the sort of assistance UPO expected from it. An official of the club told the **Gazette** that UPO had been informed that "at no time would we take any responsibility for the pool or who goes in it or who doesn't go in." He noted that the club was heavily involved in running its own summer camp program. There were 136 boys from the 9th Pct. and 57 from the 5th at the camp.

Plans for next summer tentatively include two pools in the Near Northeast area, but it seems a certainty that the Stuart location will not be used again. Consideration is being given to the use of the Goding School, 9th and F Sts. NE, as a possible site.

A final decision will be made next spring on the location of the pools. UPO is interested in suggestions from the community as to pool sites and means of supervising them once in use. The **Gazette** will be glad to pass on any proposals to the proper officials.

Tutors Needed

TUTORS are now being recruited for the Friendship House in-home tutoring program. The program is under the direction of three VISTA workers.

The tutoring will be conducted on a one-to-one basis with sessions to be held once a week in the home of the student. Other activities might include field trips to the library, Smithsonian Institution and other museums.

The program is looking for "able and concerned men and women who wish to donate an hour and a half of their time each week in order to enrich the education of a local student."

For more information, contact the Friendship House Tutoring Program, 619 D St. SE, 547-8880, extension 36.

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Number Nine, Witnesses Reach Standoff on Incident

NUMBER Nine police and witnesses to a Sept. 6 incident in the 700 block of 11th St. NE heard each other out at the regular monthly meeting of the 9th Precinct Advisory Council. The session ended in an apparent draw with neither side convincing the other that its version of the affair was correct.

The incident developed when police attempted to arrest **Emma Richardson** of Gladys, Va., for a series of alleged traffic violations on the evening of the 6th. According to **Pvt. Culen Tyson**, who had chased Mrs. Richardson in a commandeered private vehicle, the woman refused to cooperate with him, remained in her car, declined to turn over her ignition key and grabbed his nightstick.

According to several witnesses who spoke at the meeting, Mrs. Richardson did not object to going to the police station, only to going in the paddy wagon rather than in a patrol car. They testified that in the course of the fracas, Mrs. Richardson was manhandled by several officers and that her dress was disarrayed. They also claimed that the police sargeant on the scene stood by without acting while the incident took place. A tense crowd of about 100 persons gathered.

The Negro witnesses saw it as a matter of white officers mistreating a Negro woman prisoner. But **Captain Robert** Shuttleworth denied this, stating that the officers had "handled the situation carefully. I can't find any fault with the two officers."

His position was backed up by testimony by Pvt. Tyson and **Pvt. Henry Spencer**, another officer on the scene. Both officers are Negro. Pvt. Spencer stated that Mrs. Richardson, whom he knew, initially entered the patrol wagon without protest. Then the police attempted to get her ignition key so they could remove her car from the middle of the street. Pvt. Spencer agreed to Mrs. Richardson's request that he drive her to the police station in her car and she got out of the patrol wagon. At this point he was told to put her back in and she resisted. "We were trying to push, to get her in, she took her feet and pushed back, and her dress came up and exposed her . . ." Pvt. Spencer struggled for the word, looked at Captain Shuttlesworth, hen pointed to his thigh—"girdle. I saw her girdle."

Pvt. Spencer then asked the sargeant for permission to take Mrs. Richardson in her car and at this point he agreed, and police and Mrs. Richardson left the scene.

Following the testimony of the officers, Council head **Bryant G. Harris** moved the meeting quickly to other business and adjournment. "No one's going to be satisfied," he said.

One council member, commenting on the case, told the **Gazette**, "It sounds like Pvt. Spencer should be the sargeant."

CHURCH SCHOOL OPENS

THE CHURCH of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St., is opening a preschool for children 3-5 years old. The school will be professionally staffed. It will be "Christian oriented" but not sectarian. For further information telephone LI 3-4200. Application blanks will be mailed upon request.

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Peabody Fun Day

THE PEABODY Elementary School, at 5th & C Sts, N.E., opened this fall after a summer session of repairs. Before the end of last May electricians, carpenters, plasterers, plumbers moved in to renovate and restore the building. They left just before the first day of school.

To celebrate the restoration of the school, the Peabody-Edmonds Parent-Teacher Association will sponsor a Fall Festival called "Fun Day in Your Neighborhood School." It will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Peabody School and playground. There will be hot dog, ice cream and refreshment stands plus a cake walk, arts & crafts auction, a country store, toy exchange, book nook, fashion show and other special attractions. All proceeds of the "Fun Day" will go to the Peabody-Edmonds P.T.A. to start a fund for the purchase of special tools and aids for learning for the use of the children in both schools.

The principal, teachers and pupils of both schools will be on hand to show the buildings and talk with neighbors. The P.T.A. has invited the merchants and church, civic and social groups in the Capitol Hill Community to sponsor a booth or a feature attraction and to participate with the parents of the schools in this fund-raising activity.

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Lenox Annex Attacked

PARENTS of children attending classes at the old Lenox School Annex are expressing increasing discontent over the condition of the school building. At several meetings they have demanded that the building either be replaced or drastically improved.

Some 260 children have classes in the old red-brick building at 4th and M SE.

According to **James Wallace** at Friendship House, the school was closed from 1956 to 1958 and then reopened. Parents are angry over the continued use of a building considered inadequate by the school system a full decade ago.

Complaints against the building include broken windowpanes, insufficient play area, rats, not enough bathrooms, cracked blackboards and generally poor maintenance.

Many of the children at the Annex live in public housing and there have been accusations of pressure being put on their parents by housing officials, including threats of eviction, to get them to stop their protest. But, Wallace points out, the protest "indicates the feeling of people that they are not willing to take second-hand things and they are willing to take risks to see their goals accomplished."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next month, the **Gazette** becomes a tabloid size newspaper. Our commercial ad rate will be reduced to a flat $2 per inch. Advertisers paying more than that rate will have their bills reduced accordingly. Circulation of the new larger size **Gazette** will start at 2000.

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Family of Ten Evicted; SE Group Protests

MRS. **LORRAINE BURNO** and her family of ten were evicted from 1311 L St. SE last month despite protests by the newly formed Committee for Better Housing, a SE citizens' group. Mrs. Burno was evicted for nonpayment of rent by the Diamond Housing Corporation. On the day of the scheduled eviction, the Committee for Better Housing set up a picket line in front of the house

Deacon G. H. Durant, co-chairman of the Committee for Better Housing, discusses plans for the group with Mrs. Henry Washington outside the Mt. Paran Baptist Church, 1300 block of K St. SE.

but the landlord failed to appear and the eviction did not take place. Early the next morning, however, Mrs. Burno and her family were evicted. The CBH is now attempting to have the city condemn the property as unfit for habitation so it cannot be rented again.

The CBH was recently formed and includes persons threatened with relocation because of the Southeast Freeway and others troubled by excessive rents, poor maintenance by landlords and indifferent city inspectors. One lady member reported at a committee meeting that the bathroom of her rented apartment "looks like a woodshed" and that "you can't make a pallet on the floor or the mice will dance all over you."

Co-Chairmen of the group are **Mrs. Mary Smith** and **Deacon G. H. Durant.** Deacon Durant believes collective action by the group is important because "everybody's got to pull with the same identical thing" in order to overcome the community's problems.

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SACCE Nominates and Elaborates

SHERWOOD ROSS, editorial director of WOL, has been nominated to be the new president of the School Action Council of Capitol East. Others chosen by the SACCE nominating committee are: **James Atwater,** 244 9th St. NE, to be vice president; **Mary Bremier,** 660 Independence Ave. SE, to be recording secretary; **Francis Hammet,** 634 Lexington Place, NE, to be corresponding secretary; and **Sally Lorimer,** 141 11th St. NE, to be treasurer.

The selections were announced at a membership meeting Sept. 15 at Christ Child House. Nominations were to remain open until October 1 and the election of officers is scheduled for a membership meeting, October 13.

Ross, who lives at 114 7th St. SE, told the SACCE group that he wants to see "heavy quantities of quality" infused into the school system.

The session, attended by about 30 persons, concentrated on a discussion of the SACCE program, which—as elaborated by the SACCE executive board—includes these proposals:

Teachers: Change current unrealistic teaching requirements and do away with inefficiency and late school budget approval which causes DC to lose many teachers to the suburbs. Provide specialized training, mechanical aids, clerical aids and pay incentives to teachers who work with culturally disadvantaged children.

Books and Curriculum: Replace the track system with flexible ability grouping by subject using such innovations as ungraded primaries and team teaching. Upgrade and modernize curricula and textbooks. Acquire new racially integrated material. Provide a library for every school, using mobile units in playgrounds if necessary.

Buildings and Grounds: Step up construction programs to do away with unsound class buildings. Amend D.C. regulations to end faculty parking in already short playground areas. Provide more

SACCE officials Kathy Ross, Merle Baumgart and Lee Rodgers (the outgoing president) discuss school problems before the start of last month's membership meeting.

play equipment for school playgrounds and keep playgrounds open for evening, weekend, and summer recreation.

Other: Provide a 4-year liberal arts college for the District. Make use of available federal funds for experimental school programs, particularly in the Capitol East area.

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(Freeway cont'd)

the future—be developed into a recreational area.

—That it was forcing Negroes to move to make way for a road to be used primarily by suburban whites.

The protesters are working under a handicap inasmuch as the extension has already been approved by the city and other links in the freeway chain were given the go-ahead a few weeks ago by the National Capital Planning Commission. But the group, which calls itself "Victims of the Freeway," was giving no indication at press time that it was about to give up the fight.

Ward, coordinator for the march, said the demonstration was "the kickoff for further action."

Thomas Smith, of the Capitol East Democratic Club, makes a point at a meeting of victims of the Freeway.

How To Get News Into The Gazette

WE ARE interested in everything that is going on in the Capitol East area. If your block club is having a party, if your church is planning a special program, if you or neighborhood have grievances against the District government, if it's news, let us know. Just follow these steps:

1. Write out the news items, make sure the following points are covered:
   a. What is happening or is going to happen?
   b. Who is involved? (Print names clearly).
   c. Why is it taking place?
   d. When is it taking place?
   e. Where is it taking place?
   f. Whom can we contact for additional information? (Name and phone number).
2. Mail to the Gazette, 413 6th St. NE, Washington, D.C. Or—if it's short —phone us at 546-9662.
3. Our deadline is the 25th of the month prior to the month of issue.
4. We can use photos providing they are clear and are sent with a complete description of the subject matter including identification of persons in the picture. Photos can not be returned.

Cryptic Handbills

THOSE peach-colored handbills circulated in Southeast Washington last month were part of a plan by police and some community leaders to prevent street disturbances in the area. The cryptic announcements read: "In community interest. Any complaint or grievance call the following numbers: (Five numbers were listed including the 5th Pct. and the Boys' Club Eastern Division). Beware of persons unknown to your community. S.E. AD Hoc. Committee." Oliver Thompson at the Boys' Club explained that those circulating the handbills hoped to avoid the sort of incidents that had taken place sporadically throughout the summer in the city. The handbills were printed at the Boys' Club after a disturbance at Watkins School. They were backed up several nights by a citizen's patrol of Fifth Pct. streets. Some residents complained of the ambiguous nature of the handbills which seemed to them to imply an unidentified conspiracy afoot in the neighborhood. Mr. Thompson explained that the handbills were set in type by hand and were therefore kept brief.

RESTORATION SOCIETY MEETS

THE Restoration Society held its first meeting of the season on September 12th and heard speakers from the Capitol Hill Community Council and the Southeast Citizen's Association.

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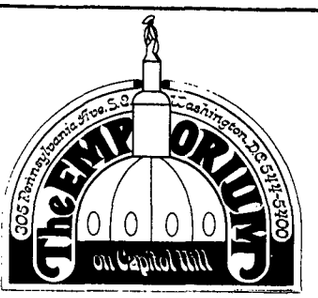

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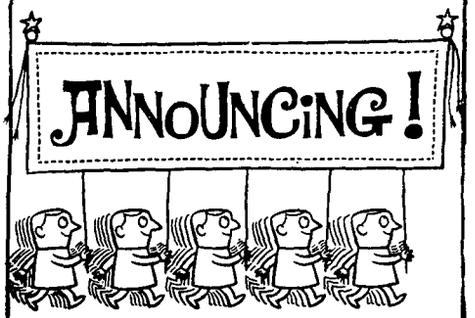

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Call the **Gazette** today at 546-9662 for more information and start signing up members now for this low bulk rate subscription.

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Get your ad, news item and letters to the editor by the 15th of this month, if you wish them to appear in next month's issue of The Gazette, 413 6th St. NE, or call 546-9662.

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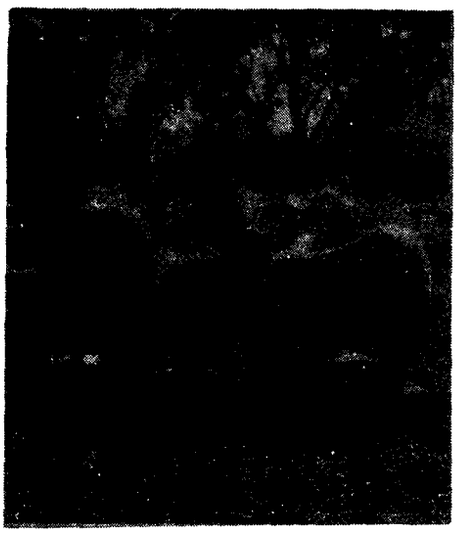
Tot's Lot in Tot Lot Not a Happy One

CAPITOL EAST mothers are unhappy over the lack of shade at many of the area's recreational facilities. Speaking of one park, a local resident told the Gazette, "I wouldn't send my children over there; they'd fry to death."



Tot Lot in Stanton Park

The exposure to the sun is especially bothersome at the tot lots established in various squares, triangles and parks in Capitol East. During the worst part of the summer, mothers are hesitant to let their small children play in the unshaded lots, such as the one in Stanton Park pictured above.

A survey by the Gazette reporter indicated that few of the area lots appeared designed with the sun problem in mind.

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